

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

This letter is in support of the Echostar/DIRECTV merger. I feel that this merger might make high speed Internet access available to rural folks like myself. The phone lines here are 40 years old, and the phone company appears to have no plans to upgrade them. We don't have cable service either. I teach hi-tech subjects (computer maintenance and electronics engineering technology) at Grayson County College but still live like those in the 1970's. I teach 4 Internet-based distance learning courses and it is next to impossible to complete any work on them at home due to the slow connection speeds. Many of my student's have cable modems, which make me feel that I am being left behind. I am the third generation on this farm and living here is my choosing. I do not believe that I should be penalized for living here though. After all, for over 40 years my farm has supplied milk, and/or beef to the American people.
Thank you,

Sincerely,

Donald Hofmann
6101 Grayson Drive
Denison, TX 75020